English Vocabulary: 100 Important MCQs

Practice set for WBCS, WBPSC, West Bengal Police, SSC, Railway and other government job examinations.

Instructions: Each question carries 1 mark and has only one correct answer. Suggested time: **60 minutes**. Attempt all questions first, then check the answer key at the end. Revise the words you got wrong and note them in your own notebook.

1. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **ABSENT**.

(A) Present (B) Missing
(C) Away (D) Gone

2. Choose the word closest in meaning to **ELOQUENT**.

(A) Silent (B) Confused
(C) Rude (D) Fluent

3. The phrasal verb **run out of** means:

(A) to run away (B) to run fast
(C) to knock down (D) to have no more supply of

4. Meaning of the idiom **a cock and bull story**:

(A) An unbelievable, made-up story (B) A farm tale
(C) A children's story (D) A true account

5. Choose the word closest in meaning to **ASTUTE**.

(A) Foolish (B) Lazy
(C) Shrewd (D) Timid

6. Fear of heights is known as:

(A) Acrophobia (B) Agoraphobia
(C) Claustrophobia (D) Xenophobia

7. Choose the correctly spelt word.

(A) Consciencious (B) Conscientious
(C) Concientious (D) Conscienscious

8. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **ANCIENT**.

(A) Old (B) Antique
(C) Modern (D) Archaic

9. Choose the word closest in meaning to **GREGARIOUS**.

(A) Sociable (B) Shy
(C) Aggressive (D) Lonely

10. Meaning of the idiom **to let the cat out of the bag**:

(A) To lose a pet (B) To create confusion
(C) To reveal a secret (D) To cause a quarrel

11. Choose the correctly spelt word.

(A) Millenium
(B) Milenium
(C) Millennium
(D) Millenneum

12. The phrasal verb **come across** means:

(A) to cross a road
(B) to oppose
(C) to argue
(D) to find by chance

13. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **BARREN**.

(A) Sterile
(B) Dry
(C) Empty
(D) Fertile

14. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **ARROGANT**.

(A) Humble
(B) Proud
(C) Haughty
(D) Rude

15. The city _____ met to discuss the new budget.

(A) council
(B) counsel
(C) consul
(D) console

16. Choose the word closest in meaning to **SQUANDER**.

(A) Waste
(B) Save
(C) Earn
(D) Collect

17. That which cannot be avoided is:

(A) Invincible
(B) Incredible
(C) Inevitable
(D) Inedible

18. Choose the correctly spelt word.

(A) Privilege
(B) Priviledge
(C) Privelege
(D) Previlege

19. Choose the wrongly spelt word.

(A) Weight
(B) Height
(C) Foreign
(D) Wierd

20. One who is present everywhere is:

(A) Omnipotent
(B) Omniscient
(C) Omnipresent
(D) Omnivorous

21. Choose the word closest in meaning to **AUSTERE**.

(A) Luxurious
(B) Cheerful
(C) Soft
(D) Stern

22. A person who walks in his sleep is called a:

(A) Insomniac
(B) Pedestrian
(C) Somnambulist
(D) Hypnotist

23. Vegetarians do not eat _____.

(A) meet
(B) meat
(C) mete
(D) mate

24. Choose the word closest in meaning to **DEARTH**.

(A) Abundance (B) Scarcity
(C) Wealth (D) Excess

25. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **EXPAND**.

(A) Contract (B) Enlarge
(C) Extend (D) Swell

26. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **CHAOS**.

(A) Confusion (B) Order
(C) Disorder (D) Turmoil

27. A list of items to be discussed at a meeting is the:

(A) Agenda (B) Minutes
(C) Quorum (D) Verdict

28. Choose the correctly spelt word.

(A) Perseverence (B) Perseverance
(C) Perserverance (D) Persaverance

29. An uncontrollable urge to steal is called:

(A) Pyromania (B) Kleptomania
(C) Megalomania (D) Bibliomania

30. Government by officials is called:

(A) Plutocracy (B) Anarchy
(C) Bureaucracy (D) Monarchy

31. Meaning of the idiom **to eat humble pie**:

(A) To apologise humbly (B) To eat very little
(C) To become poor (D) To refuse food

32. I _____ my old friend in the market yesterday.

(A) ran over (B) ran away
(C) ran out (D) ran into

33. Meaning of the idiom **to take the bull by the horns**:

(A) To fight an animal (B) To act foolishly
(C) To face a difficulty boldly (D) To run away

34. Choose the word closest in meaning to **VIGILANT**.

(A) Careless (B) Sleepy
(C) Watchful (D) Lazy

35. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **RIGID**.

(A) Stiff (B) Strict
(C) Firm (D) Flexible

36. Choose the wrongly spelt word.

(A) Library (B) Calendar
(C) Separate (D) Mischievious

37. The family was in _____ after his death.

(A) mourning (B) morning
(C) mournning (D) mouring

38. I need your _____ on this matter.

(A) advice (B) advise
(C) advices (D) advize

39. A place where coins are made is called a:

(A) Mint (B) Mortuary
(C) Arsenal (D) Granary

40. Choose the word closest in meaning to **FUTILE**.

(A) Useless (B) Fruitful
(C) Useful (D) Powerful

41. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **PERMANENT**.

(A) Lasting (B) Eternal
(C) Temporary (D) Stable

42. Meaning of the idiom **with flying colours**:

(A) With bright flags (B) With great success
(C) In a hurry (D) With great difficulty

43. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **WISE**.

(A) Clever (B) Foolish
(C) Sagacious (D) Prudent

44. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **FEEBLE**.

(A) Frail (B) Weak
(C) Puny (D) Robust

45. Choose the word closest in meaning to **DILIGENT**.

(A) Careless (B) Idle
(C) Industrious (D) Weak

46. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **HASTY**.

(A) Quick (B) Deliberate
(C) Rapid (D) Sudden

47. Lasting for a very short time is:

(A) Eternal (B) Ancient
(C) Immortal (D) Ephemeral

48. Meaning of the idiom **to turn a deaf ear**:

(A) To lose hearing (B) To listen carefully
(C) To shout loudly (D) To refuse to listen

49. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **CAPTIVITY**.

(A) Prison (B) Freedom
(C) Slavery (D) Bondage

50. The king's _____ lasted for forty years.

(A) rain (B) rein
(C) rane (D) reign

51. The soldier received a _____ for bravery.

(A) meddle (B) medal
(C) metal (D) mettle

52. Choose the word closest in meaning to **INNOCUOUS**.

(A) Dangerous (B) Poisonous
(C) Harmless (D) Costly

53. The doctors worked hard and the patient _____.

(A) pulled down (B) pulled out
(C) pulled through (D) pulled up

54. A person who hates women is called a:

(A) Misogynist (B) Misanthrope
(C) Philanthropist (D) Egoist

55. Meaning of the idiom **to call it a day**:

(A) To celebrate (B) To fix a date
(C) To stop working for the day (D) To take leave

56. The scientific study of birds is called:

(A) Entomology (B) Ornithology
(C) Zoology (D) Ecology

57. The phrasal verb **get over** an illness means:

(A) to recover from (B) to catch
(C) to spread (D) to ignore

58. Meaning of the idiom **a wild goose chase**:

(A) A foolish and useless search (B) A hunting trip
(C) A long journey (D) An exciting adventure

59. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **MAJORITY**.

(A) Majesty (B) Minority
(C) Plurality (D) Quorum

60. Meaning of the idiom **a white elephant**:

(A) A rare animal (B) A sign of good luck
(C) A costly but useless possession (D) A huge gift

61. Choose the word closest in meaning to **HOSTILE**.

(A) Friendly (B) Unfriendly
(C) Polite (D) Calm

62. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **SCARCE**.

(A) Plentiful (B) Rare
(C) Meagre (D) Limited

63. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **VICTORY**.

(A) Triumph
(B) Defeat
(C) Success
(D) Conquest

64. Choose the word closest in meaning to **MITIGATE**.

(A) Increase
(B) Ignore
(C) Delay
(D) Lessen

65. The killing of a king is called:

(A) Homicide
(B) Suicide
(C) Genocide
(D) Regicide

66. Choose the word closest in meaning to **INDIGENT**.

(A) Wealthy
(B) Generous
(C) Destitute
(D) Famous

67. Choose the correctly spelt word.

(A) Questionaire
(B) Questionnaire
(C) Questionnair
(D) Quesionnaire

68. A collection of poems is called an:

(A) Anthology
(B) Atlas
(C) Archive
(D) Album

69. One who does not believe in the existence of God is a(n):

(A) Agnostic
(B) Atheist
(C) Theist
(D) Stoic

70. Government by the people is called:

(A) Autocracy
(B) Oligarchy
(C) Democracy
(D) Theocracy

71. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **PRAISE**.

(A) Applaud
(B) Commend
(C) Admire
(D) Criticise

72. One who collects postage stamps is a:

(A) Numismatist
(B) Philatelist
(C) Cartographer
(D) Antiquarian

73. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **GENUINE**.

(A) Real
(B) Authentic
(C) Fake
(D) Original

74. Choose the correctly spelt word.

(A) Maintainance
(B) Maintenance
(C) Maintenence
(D) Maintanance

75. She read the _____ day.

(A) whole
(B) hole
(C) hoal
(D) hall

76. Choose the word closest in meaning to **ADAMANT**.

(A) Stubborn (B) Flexible
(C) Gentle (D) Weak

77. A place where soldiers live is called:

(A) Convent (B) Hangar
(C) Orphanage (D) Barracks

78. Choose the word closest in meaning to **NOTORIOUS**.

(A) Infamous (B) Honoured
(C) Anonymous (D) Admired

79. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **VIRTUE**.

(A) Merit (B) Honour
(C) Vice (D) Goodness

80. Choose the word closest in meaning to **SAGACIOUS**.

(A) Foolish (B) Wicked
(C) Brave (D) Wise

81. Choose the word closest in meaning to **LAMENT**.

(A) Celebrate (B) Praise
(C) Ignore (D) Mourn

82. Children should _____ their elders.

(A) look down on (B) look after
(C) look into (D) look up to

83. Choose the word closest in meaning to **ALLEVIATE**.

(A) Worsen (B) Ignore
(C) Aggravate (D) Relieve

84. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **OPTIMIST**.

(A) Idealist (B) Pessimist
(C) Realist (D) Egoist

85. The killing of one's mother is called:

(A) Patricide (B) Fratricide
(C) Infanticide (D) Matricide

86. A fire _____ in the factory at midnight.

(A) broke in (B) broke out
(C) broke up (D) broke off

87. Meaning of the idiom **a red-letter day**:

(A) A day of mourning (B) A memorable, happy day
(C) A day of examination (D) A postal holiday

88. Meaning of the idiom **to bury the hatchet**:

(A) To hide weapons (B) To start a fight
(C) To dig a grave (D) To end a quarrel

89. Meaning of the idiom **a man of straw**:

(A) A farmer
(B) A rich man
(C) A weak person of no substance
(D) A maker of scarecrows

90. A doctor who treats skin diseases is a:

(A) Cardiologist
(B) Neurologist
(C) Dermatologist
(D) Oncologist

91. Meaning of the idiom **under the weather**:

(A) In a storm
(B) Very happy
(C) Slightly unwell
(D) Wet

92. He _____ his plan because he had no money.

(A) gave in
(B) gave out
(C) gave up
(D) gave away

93. The government has _____ the old law.

(A) done away with
(B) done up
(C) done for
(D) done in

94. Choose the word opposite in meaning to **IGNORANCE**.

(A) Innocence
(B) Stupidity
(C) Darkness
(D) Knowledge

95. Choose the word closest in meaning to **REBUKE**.

(A) Praise
(B) Reward
(C) Ignore
(D) Reprimand

96. The meeting has been **put off**. This means that the meeting has been:

(A) postponed
(B) cancelled
(C) started
(D) attended

97. Meaning of the idiom **to smell a rat**:

(A) To detect a bad odour
(B) To suspect that something is wrong
(C) To kill rats
(D) To feel sick

98. Meaning of the idiom **hand in glove**:

(A) Wearing gloves
(B) Quarrelling
(C) In very close association
(D) In danger

99. One who loves books is called a:

(A) Bibliographer
(B) Bibliophile
(C) Librarian
(D) Scholar

100. Choose the word closest in meaning to **TENACIOUS**.

(A) Weak
(B) Persistent
(C) Temporary
(D) Casual

Answer Key

1. (A)	**21.** (D)	**41.** (C)	**61.** (B)	**81.** (D)
2. (D)	**22.** (C)	**42.** (B)	**62.** (A)	**82.** (D)
3. (D)	**23.** (B)	**43.** (B)	**63.** (B)	**83.** (D)
4. (A)	**24.** (B)	**44.** (D)	**64.** (D)	**84.** (B)
5. (C)	**25.** (A)	**45.** (C)	**65.** (D)	**85.** (D)
6. (A)	**26.** (B)	**46.** (B)	**66.** (C)	**86.** (B)
7. (B)	**27.** (A)	**47.** (D)	**67.** (B)	**87.** (B)
8. (C)	**28.** (B)	**48.** (D)	**68.** (A)	**88.** (D)
9. (A)	**29.** (B)	**49.** (B)	**69.** (B)	**89.** (C)
10. (C)	**30.** (C)	**50.** (D)	**70.** (C)	**90.** (C)
11. (C)	**31.** (A)	**51.** (B)	**71.** (D)	**91.** (C)
12. (D)	**32.** (D)	**52.** (C)	**72.** (B)	**92.** (C)
13. (D)	**33.** (C)	**53.** (C)	**73.** (C)	**93.** (A)
14. (A)	**34.** (C)	**54.** (A)	**74.** (B)	**94.** (D)
15. (A)	**35.** (D)	**55.** (C)	**75.** (A)	**95.** (D)
16. (A)	**36.** (D)	**56.** (B)	**76.** (A)	**96.** (A)
17. (C)	**37.** (A)	**57.** (A)	**77.** (D)	**97.** (B)
18. (A)	**38.** (A)	**58.** (A)	**78.** (A)	**98.** (C)
19. (D)	**39.** (A)	**59.** (B)	**79.** (C)	**99.** (B)
20. (C)	**40.** (A)	**60.** (C)	**80.** (D)	**100.** (B)

Answers with Explanations

No.	Answer	Explanation
1	**A) Present**	Absent means not present.
2	**D) Fluent**	Eloquent means fluent and persuasive in speech.
3	**D) to have no more supply of**	Run out of = finish the supply.
4	**A) An unbelievable, made-up story**	It is a silly story that no one can believe.
5	**C) Shrewd**	Astute means clever in judgement, i.e. shrewd.
6	**A) Acrophobia**	Acro = high; agoraphobia = open spaces.
7	**B) Conscientious**	Spelt c-o-n-s-c-i-e-n-t-i-o-u-s.
8	**C) Modern**	Ancient means very old; modern is the opposite.
9	**A) Sociable**	Gregarious means fond of company.
10	**C) To reveal a secret**	It means to give away a secret by mistake.
11	**C) Millennium**	Double l and double n.
12	**D) to find by chance**	Come across = meet or find unexpectedly.
13	**D) Fertile**	Barren means unproductive; fertile means productive.
14	**A) Humble**	Arrogant means overly proud; humble is the opposite.
15	**A) council**	Council = an assembly; counsel = advice.
16	**A) Waste**	Squander means to waste money or resources.
17	**C) Inevitable**	Inevitable = unavoidable.
18	**A) Privilege**	No "d" in privilege.
19	**D) Wierd**	The correct spelling is weird (an exception to the i-before-e rule).
20	**C) Omnipresent**	Omnipotent = all-powerful; omniscient = all-knowing.
21	**D) Stern**	Austere means strict and plain; stern is the closest.
22	**C) Somnambulist**	Somnus = sleep; ambulare = to walk.
23	**B) meat**	Meat = flesh; meet = to come together.
24	**B) Scarcity**	Dearth means a lack or shortage.
25	**A) Contract**	Expand means to grow bigger; contract means to shrink.
26	**B) Order**	Chaos means disorder; order is its opposite.
27	**A) Agenda**	Minutes are the record of the meeting; quorum is the minimum number of members.
28	**B) Perseverance**	The ending is -ance.
29	**B) Kleptomania**	Pyromania = setting fires; megalomania = delusion of greatness.
30	**C) Bureaucracy**	Bureaucracy is rule through administrative officials.
31	**A) To apologise humbly**	It means to admit a mistake and apologise.
32	**D) ran into**	Run into = meet by chance.
33	**C) To face a difficulty boldly**	It means to deal with a problem courageously.
34	**C) Watchful**	Vigilant means alert and watchful.
35	**D) Flexible**	Rigid means unbending; flexible means able to bend.

No.	Answer	Explanation
36	**D) Mischievious**	The correct spelling is mischievous (no extra i).
37	**A) mourning**	Mourning = grief; morning = early part of the day.
38	**A) advice**	Advice is the noun; advise is the verb.
39	**A) Mint**	Arsenal = weapons store; granary = grain store.
40	**A) Useless**	Futile means having no result, i.e. useless.
41	**C) Temporary**	Permanent means lasting; temporary means for a short time.
42	**B) With great success**	It means with outstanding success.
43	**B) Foolish**	Wise means sensible; foolish means lacking sense.
44	**D) Robust**	Feeble means weak; robust means strong.
45	**C) Industrious**	Diligent means hard-working, i.e. industrious.
46	**B) Deliberate**	Hasty means done in a hurry; deliberate means careful and unhurried.
47	**D) Ephemeral**	Ephemeral = short-lived.
48	**D) To refuse to listen**	It means to ignore a request or advice.
49	**B) Freedom**	Captivity means being held; freedom is the opposite.
50	**D) reign**	Reign = rule of a monarch.
51	**B) medal**	Medal = an award; meddle = interfere; metal = iron, etc.
52	**C) Harmless**	Innocuous means not harmful.
53	**C) pulled through**	Pull through = recover from a serious illness.
54	**A) Misogynist**	Misanthrope hates mankind.
55	**C) To stop working for the day**	It means to stop an activity.
56	**B) Ornithology**	Entomology = insects; zoology = animals.
57	**A) to recover from**	Get over = recover.
58	**A) A foolish and useless search**	The search has no chance of success.
59	**B) Minority**	Majority = larger part; minority = smaller part.
60	**C) A costly but useless possession**	It is something expensive to keep but of little use.
61	**B) Unfriendly**	Hostile means unfriendly or antagonistic.
62	**A) Plentiful**	Scarce means in short supply; plentiful means in large amounts.
63	**B) Defeat**	Victory means winning; defeat means losing.
64	**D) Lessen**	Mitigate means to make less severe.
65	**D) Regicide**	Regi = king; -cide = killing.
66	**C) Destitute**	Indigent means very poor, i.e. destitute.
67	**B) Questionnaire**	Double n and ends with -aire.
68	**A) Anthology**	An atlas is a collection of maps.
69	**B) Atheist**	Theist believes in God; agnostic says God cannot be known.
70	**C) Democracy**	Demos = people; kratos = rule.
71	**D) Criticise**	Praise means to approve; criticise means to find fault.
72	**B) Philatelist**	Numismatist collects coins.
73	**C) Fake**	Genuine means real; fake means false.
74	**B) Maintenance**	Maintain becomes maintenance.

No.	Answer	Explanation
75	**A) whole**	Whole = complete; hole = an opening.
76	**A) Stubborn**	Adamant means unwilling to change one's mind.
77	**D) Barracks**	Convent = nuns; hangar = aeroplanes.
78	**A) Infamous**	Notorious means famous for something bad.
79	**C) Vice**	Virtue means moral goodness; vice means immoral habit.
80	**D) Wise**	Sagacious means wise and shrewd.
81	**D) Mourn**	Lament means to express grief.
82	**D) look up to**	Look up to = respect; look down on = despise.
83	**D) Relieve**	Alleviate means to make less severe, i.e. relieve.
84	**B) Pessimist**	An optimist hopes for the best; a pessimist expects the worst.
85	**D) Matricide**	Matri = mother.
86	**B) broke out**	Break out = start suddenly (fire, war, disease).
87	**B) A memorable, happy day**	Red-letter days were important festival days marked in red.
88	**D) To end a quarrel**	It means to make peace.
89	**C) A weak person of no substance**	It refers to a person without real strength or importance.
90	**C) Dermatologist**	Derma = skin.
91	**C) Slightly unwell**	It means feeling a little ill.
92	**C) gave up**	Give up = abandon an effort.
93	**A) done away with**	Do away with = abolish.
94	**D) Knowledge**	Ignorance is lack of knowledge.
95	**D) Reprimand**	Rebuke means to scold sharply.
96	**A) postponed**	Put off = postpone.
97	**B) To suspect that something is wrong**	It means to sense that something is not right.
98	**C) In very close association**	It describes people working closely together, often for a dishonest purpose.
99	**B) Bibliophile**	Biblio = book, phile = lover.
100	**B) Persistent**	Tenacious means holding firmly; persistent.

Score Analysis

Score (out of 100)	Level	What to do next
85 - 100	Excellent	Keep revising weak words and attempt full-length mock tests.
70 - 84	Good	Revise the topics of your wrong answers and learn 15 new words daily.
50 - 69	Average	Re-read the Vocabulary notes carefully and repeat this test after one week.
Below 50	Needs improvement	Start again from the basics and follow a daily revision plan.